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SOME RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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(SECOND EDITION, REVISED)

Results always count. Theories often go wrong. While active commercial pecan orcharding is only ten to twenty years old, some very suggestive results have been achieved.

The following are extracts from letters received during the early part of 1924. Some of the yields are excellent; others are only fairly good. Some things may be read between the lines that will be suggestive to the wide-awake grower:—

A. J. Strickland, Blackshear, Ga.—“I have never kept an accurate record of individual trees, although there are trees in my grove that have carried crops of 150 pounds at 14 years of age. My grove has grown in the last four years 37,000 pounds of nuts—I think a rather good showing for 14 year old trees. My trees when planted were only 2 to 3 feet. There are 400 trees in the grove. I have used for the past several years an average of 50 pounds of commercial fertilizer per tree.”

Mrs. J. D. Allison, Minter, Ala.—“I have thirty-five budded pecan trees, planted between the years 1906 and 1913 in a cow pasture sodded with bermuda grass. The trees have had but little cultivation until the last few years; but I cleared \$621.00 from the 1922 nut crop, and I think I will do equally as well with the 1923 nuts. I have only a few acres around my home lot, but have a pecan tree in every nook and corner; even one or two in my vegetable garden, as there was no other possible place I could plant a tree. Each year since 1906 I have set out a few trees, and now have 165 trees growing of all ages and several varieties. . . . If I had a thousand acres of land I would plant it all

in pecan trees."

C. W. Stegall, Montgomery, Ala.—"I have never had the phenomenal yield that I sometimes read of. The best that I have ever done is 150 pounds in 1922 from a twelve year old Mobile, and 84 pounds from a 13 year old Frotscher in 1923. From six and eight year old trees I sometimes get as much as 10 and 15 pounds, and I think that is doing fine when I get that much."

E. H. McMichael, Beuna Vista, Ga.—"As to my own trees bought from you some 12 to 14 years ago; I have never kept weights per tree; but will just say this: I am so delighted with the returns from those trees that I am now planting many, many more."

B. H. Wright, Thomasville, Ga.—"I purchased from you 17 years ago five Frotscher trees which I planted in my back yard at my residence, and this fall I gathered 125 pounds of very fine choice nuts from each of these five trees, which I sold at 40 cents per pound. . . . I also have a large orchard out at my farm, two miles from Thomasville, which is bearing splendidly."

A. R. Killebrew, Newton, Ala.—"The best record we have is \$825.40 from 46 trees you furnished me twelve years ago."

Judge U. V. Whipple, Cordele, Ga.—"J. W. Cannon, President of the American Bank & Trust Co., has a grove here of twenty acres of bearing trees, put out in 1910. The care of them for the first several years was indifferent. The output of nuts for 1923 was 8,745 pounds. In January 1910 I set out two acres of trees obtained from you. My treatment of them has been inexcusably negligent. I have never specially fertilized them. The 1923 crop was 1200 pounds."

J. A. Kernodle, Auburn, Ala.—"My pecan trees get more interesting every year as they get older and the yield increases. We shipped to the Exchange over 10,000 pounds the past season. The Frotscher I wrote you about bearing $72\frac{1}{2}$ pounds at 10 years set, had 122 pounds the 11th year, 98 pounds the 12th year, and 172 pounds the 13th year. From 4 Frotscher 11 years old standing 50 ft. apart we gathered 440 pounds. I have a number of Schley and Stuart 12 and 13 years old that net me over \$50.00 each per year. I am planting more trees every year, as I had rather leave good pecan trees planted on good land for

my family than life insurance or any other investment I know of."

J. M. D. McGregor, Ailey, Ga.—“In 1912 I realized that the boll weevil would eventually reduce our crop of cotton, so I began to experiment with other things to take the place of at least a part of our cotton as a money crop, so I tried tobacco, watermelons, cucumbers, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, and other things, with varying success or failure. I also bought from you 100 pecan trees and set them in 1912. I have given them no special attention and have made no record breaking crops of nuts, but they have paid me more than the interest on a valuation of \$1000.00 per acre since they were seven years old. In 1923 they paid me more than \$200.00 per acre.”

J. Scarboro, Tifton, Ga.—“My best yield in 1923 was 1390 pounds from 25 thirteen year old Success trees, which I sold for 43 cents per pound net.

Mrs. C. H. Richardson, Montezuma, Ga.—“The pecan trees which I bought five years ago are doing well. They have only been cultivated with the crops. I have not kept close figures on the individual trees, but as an orchard it is beautiful. Last year, 1923, I gathered 175 pounds of beautiful nuts. The yield from the land in the orchard has been as good or better than any other part of the place.”

Sam Sommers, Hawkinsville, Ga.—“I have several Mobile trees which exceeded forty pounds of nuts this season, their eighth year set. I was very much pleased with these results. I had other trees of Stuart and Schley varieties six years set which also showed up well.”

W. W. Clanton, Ellabell, Ga.—“The 200 Frotscher trees bought of you in 1917 were set on just common pine land with no attention paid them until last year I gave them their first fertilizer. We have kept no record of their bearing, except one tree that stands near the house, which has had the same treatment of those standing in the orchard. At 4 years of age after setting, this tree bore 4 well filled nuts of large size. The 5th year it bore 94, and 6th year 288, and last year, the 7th, I gathered 644 which weighed 16 pounds after dried out. This tree is 30 inches in circumference, and has a top spread of 30 feet. While I have several trees in the orchard that are larger than this one, yet I have kept no record of them. Out of the 100 Schley purchased from you last year I have 99 living. My

only regret is that I did not set more trees earlier."

WHO SUCCEEDING? From the above it may be correctly inferred that they who are succeeding with pecans are those who are caring for them. **Feed your trees if you would have them feed you.** 500 to 1000 pounds of high grade guano is not too much to apply to a bearing orchard yielding \$100.00 and upward per acre. Conversely, no orchard will long give \$100.00 per acre in nuts unless it is cared for. When WELL cared for it should, when 12 to 15 years old, readily net this amount. The pecan "Philosopher's stone" is found in liberal fertilizing, with winter and summer cover crops turned under to add humus. Pecan trees love a soil well filled with vegetable matter.

NEGLECT will cause any business to fail. The pecan business is no exception. Either individual trees or large orchards which are not succeeding are the results of failure to comply with one or more of the conditions of success. These are:

- (1) Good trees.
- (2) Set on good land.
- (3) And well cared for.

ON THE GROUND FLOOR. The average annual production of pecans for the United States does not exceed 500 carloads of 30,000 pounds each. Divide these equally among all our people and there would be only one and one-fourth ounces of shelled meats for each man, woman, and child in the Union. When we get our own people supplied, we still have the remainder of the world to feed with pecans. Those who start now are on the ground floor.

EGGS IN ANOTHER BASKET. The boll weevil now covers nearly all the cotton belt of the South. The cotton belt practically coincides with the pecan belt. Another money crop is needed. If every farmer in the cotton belt will put out and properly care for five acres of pecan trees for each plow he runs, he will be ready in a few years to thank God for the boll weevil.

WHAT OTHERS have done you can do. Put out only so many trees as will be cared for in the best manner. This may be only a few trees about the home, or it may be a hundred acres. But **CARE FOR THEM**, and in time your purse will rejoice and your heart be made glad.

If price list of trees or reading matter on pecans is wanted, write J. B. Wight, Cairo, Ga.